

Elevator Use by Fire Service Survey Results

By Scott Adams

The following is the information I gathered from various fire officials around the country in response to the following questions:

1. When the fire alarm system is activated in a high-rise building,
 - a. Does your jurisdiction require the elevators to be recalled automatically by the fire alarm system, to the main floor, or ?
 - b. Does your jurisdiction require elevators to be recalled only upon activation of smoke detectors in the elevator lobby, elevator hoist way or elevator machine room as required by ASME A17.1?

The response I received back indicated that the fire officials only require elevators to be recalled upon activation of smoke detectors in the elevator lobby, elevator hoist way or elevator machine room as required by ASME A17.1

2. As part of your firefighting operations at a high-rise alarm, do your first arriving companies go to the elevator lobby or Fire Command Center, and recall all elevators to the main floor, even though no other action has initiated elevator recall?

The response I received back again was no, if there was no indication a fire or emergency.

I received responses from the following fire agencies to the above questions:

New York City Fire Department
Portland, Maine Fire Department
Charleston, West Virginia Fire Department
Austin, Texas Fire Department
Montgomery County, MD Fire Department
Ocean City, MD Fire Department
MD State Fire Marshals Office
Baltimore County, MD Fire Department
Charlotte, NC Fire Department
AZ State Fire Marshals Office
Missouri State Fire Marshals Office
Clark County, NV Fire Department
Casper, WY Fire Department
Delaware State Fire Marshals Office

Also, I was referred to the website www.asme.org/cns/elevators/index.shtml for further information.